SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA FORUM

Web-Page www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov

2440 Main Street Red Bluff, Ca. 96080

SRCAF NOTES

May, 2002

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Board Members:

Chair, Ben Carter, Colusa County

Don Anderson, Glenn County, Sec/Treas.

Jane Dolan, Butte County, Vice Chairman

Bill Borror, Tehama County

Denny Bungarz, Glenn County

Mel Dodgin, The Resources Agency

Marc Faye, Yolo County

Brendon Flynn, Tehama County

Dan Gover, Shasta County

Glenn Hawes, Shasta County

Shirley Lewis, Butte County

Lynnel Pollock, Yolo County

Dan Silva, Sutter County

David Womble, Colusa County

Russell Young, Sutter County

Ex-Officio Members:

Laura Allen, Bureau of Reclamation

Marie Sullivan, US F&WS

Mark Charlton, Corps of Engineers

Diana Jacobs, Department of Fish & Game

Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board

Dwight Russell, Department of Water Resources

Burt Bundy, Manager (530) 528-7411 bundy@water.ca.gov

" " Project Activities and Updates • • •

- ❖ M&T/Llano Seco- Les Heringer, Manager, reported on their proposal to CALFED for funding a study to determine the long-term solution on the gravel bar intrusion. The proposal was recommended "Consider as Directed Action" (see below) requiring that some revisions need to be made before funding. One suggestion made by the review panel was that a steering committee be appointed; the SRCAF has offered to help facilitate that committee.
- From The Nature Conservancy (TNC) TNC will be mailing a second edition of the Beehive Bend Subreach Planning Newsletter. The Subreach planning process looks at restoration potential in the context of other land uses along the river and includes information regarding hydraulic modeling in the area as well as information of a Socioeconomic Assessment of potential restoration. This newsletter is being distributed to inform people living in the area and/or managing land or resources in the area. Call (530) 897-6388 if you would like to receive this newsletter.
- ❖ The SRCAF will be facilitating a presentation and discussion of the Draft Findings for the Socioeconomic Assessment conducted by Jones and Stokes for TNC. The meeting is planned to follow the June 20th SRCAF Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting in Willows at 1:00 p.m., also at the Willows City Hall.

CALFED Update – Initial Panel Recommendations on the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) PSPs were released; the public comment period will end on May 10. The Panel recommendations included the following categories: (1) Funded – as is. Recommended for funding as proposed (2) Fund – in part. Partial funding is recommended for selected project phases or components (3) Fund -With Conditions. Funds are recommended if the applicant contractually agrees to meet the specified conditions (4) Consider as Directed Action. A proposal addressing a high priority action that requires some revision followed by addition review prior to being recommended for funding and (5) Not Recommended. A proposal not currently recommended for funding – after revision, may be considered in the future. The PSPs can be accessed from the SRCAF homepage; just click on "Other Links" and then click the link for "CALFED 2002 PSP Access".

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – April 18, 2002

Chair~ Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair~ Stacy Cepello

Discussion Items:

■ Activities Updates – Lewis Bair, RD 108, discussed two proposals they had submitted to CALFED: (1) Consolidated Pumping Facility and Fish Screen and (2) Sediment Removal Project. The initial Panel recommendation on the Consolidated Pumping Facility was "Consider As Directed Action, the Sediment Removal Project was not recommended for funding at this time. Ernie Ohlin, Tehama County Pulic Works, and Dawit Zeleke, TNC, discussed the River Vista Project at Woodson Bridge. Approximately 1300 acres were restored several years ago; now looking at alternatives to help alleviate flooding issues on South Avenue. One possibility would be to re-open the box culverts to improve the drainage. The project will be presented in depth at a future TAC meeting. Anjanette asked that all new and existing projects be presented using the new "project fact sheet" accompanied by a map.

Rebecca Fris, CALFED, discussed the Initial Panel Recommendations on the 2002 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP's). Of the 260 proposals, 56 were recommended for funding. 35 were recommended "Consider as Directed Action"; revisions will need to be made by August followed by another review process. The Committee discussed the May 10th deadline for public comment does not allow adequate time for the TAC to review and make its recommendations to the Board. A suggestion was made that the TAC draft language for the Board to send to CALFED regarding the review process. The letter would reiterate the goals and principles of the Handbook against which the projects should be balanced for consistency. The lack of time for adequate proposal review would be emphasized.

- <u>Update on new website</u> Stacy informed the group that a link is now available on the SRCA website to access mapping and CALFED PSP's. The database will eventually have all the information being requested in the project review form; this is a good, first step in project tracking. Eventually the form will be available on an interactive website and information will be entered directly by the proponent.
- Manager's Report Burt reported that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) received funding to address issues going on in the Colusa-Princeton Sub-Reach. The project is a collaboration between TNC and SRCA to open the process to more local involvement. The Handbook has been converted to a word processing document and the changes to the language and tables resulting from the first set of amendments have been incorporated.
- Next Meeting May 16th, 9:30 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows.

- ❖ Public Participation/Unscheduled Matters Sam Lawson, TNC, announced that escrow has closed on three properties previously discussed at the TAC. Two others, the Westermann piece and the Verschagin property have been help up pending approval for subdivision and a lot line adjustment respectively; these are tied to the Hamilton City J Levee. Sam indicated there are no options to purchase any new land. He also announced that he will be managing projects in the Central Valley; Dawit Zeleke will serve as the interim acting Director.
- ❖ Agency Reports Mike Ayres, TNC, presented the Ayres Report "Uses of 2-Dimensional Modeling to Assess the Hydraulic Effects of Landscape Modifications RM 194 to 202. The model that was developed was used to analyze the hydraulic impact of proposed land use conversions along the Sacramento River and floodplains. Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board, reported that the Corps of Engineers is proposing local cost sharing on maintenance of levees required by PL8499 (Emergency Response). The Reclamation Board is drafting a letter recommending that they not make that a requirement. Pete noted anyone interested can contact him and he will furnish the letter they are using.

❖ Board Committee Reports –

Executive Committee made a recommendation to the Board that the election of officers be held in June and raised the idea of not having a Board meeting in July. The Committee also discussed the tendency of the Corps of Engineers to do multi-objective projects, ones that require both bank protection and restoration, rather than single-use projects. Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board, noted policy does not dictate they have to use multi-objective projects but those that provide a safety function along with environmental benefit go more quickly and tend to cost less. It was noted that this issue is a national debate.

Landowner Assurances Committee –The draft Good Neighbor Policy is still being reviewed. The next meeting will be on May 21st, 1:30 p.m. at the Colusa Fair Board.

PILT/Economic Committee – Chair Denny Bungarz reported hearing at a recent meeting that the mood in Congress seems to be for full PILT payment; many organizations are looking at this as a top priority.

Outreach Committee – Chair Laura Allen reported on a recent meeting that was held in Chico. The group discussed the new website being developed for project tracking and public access information. The brochure is in process with a tentative completion date of June 27. The Committee also suggested the idea of the June Board meeting being held outdoors, possibly at Woodson Bridge.

TAC – Chair Anjanette Martin reported the TAC is trying to move the project review process forward. Two project proposals by Reclamation District 108 were presented to the TAC using the newly adopted form.

Manager's Report –

CALFED proposal review – Because of the limited time for review, it was determined the three projects in the Conservation Area that were recommended for funding will be e-mailed to the TAC and the Board to review for consistency with the Handbook and to offer comments. The draft letter from the TAC regarding the project review process will go out after the e-mail review. Those projects recommended "Considered for Directed Action" will be discussed at the May 16 TAC.

The Butte County Fish & Game Commission hosted several local sports enthusiasts to hear a presentation about activities along the Sacramento River. Paul Ward, Cal Dept. of Fish & Game, facilitated the presentation and discussion by Kevin Foerster, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Paul Hofmann, DFG, and Burt Bundy, the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum.

~Burt Bundy gave a background of the SRCAF, and explained that the Forum was established to bring everyone together to plan and coordinate fish and wildlife enhancement, water supply projects, and flood control needs within a narrow riparian band where active river meander occurs. The SRCAF is a non-profit, non-regulatory organization made up of local and agency representatives dedicated to voluntary cooperation between all interests. Paul Hofmann talked about the DFG properties and the management problems presented by the scattered ownerships, and the use of those properties. Kevin Foerster discussed the Management Planning process the F&WS is going through at this time. He pointed out their responsibility to manage within priorities set by law that enhance wildlife, but also include hunting and fishing, along with other recreational uses, in their Management Plan. Kevin welcomed input into the formation of the Plan. Paul Ward summed up the presentation by relating the benefits to the fisheries under SB 1086, and pointed out that the SRCAF provides the forum for all stakeholders to participate in the decisions affecting activities in the River corridor.

~Questions centered around issues that relate to access and public use of the Sacramento River. Concerns were expressed about lack of access to public land. By law, the USF&WS must close off properties until a Management Plan is adopted, and that may be up to a year or more away. It was pointed out that current mapping of public ownership is difficult to find and understand. The SRCAF website does provide some aerial maps that do help, and is in the process of developing better public use mapping and information. The Butte County Fish & Game Commission is to be commended for providing informational discussions of issues concerning local recreational users.

Future TAC/SRCA Board and Committee Meetings~

- ~The next TAC meeting will be May 16th, 9:30 a.m. at the Willows City Hall, Willows
- ~The next <u>SRCAF Board meeting</u> will be May 23rd, 4:00 p.m., at the "Monday Afternoon Club", 120 N. Lassen street, Willows (across from the Willows City hall)
- ~The Landowner Assurances Committee will meet on May 21st, 1:30 p.m., Colusa Fair Board